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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,813	03/30/2004	Doo Sun Choi	B-5402 621789-1	5292

7590 04/25/2006

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EXAMINER

DOUGHERTY, THOMAS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,813	CHOI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas M. Dougherty	2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4 and 7-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims don't describe a coherent structure such that it is clear how the method of enlarging is actually achieved by the steps. The piezoelectric sensor is noted as being attached to the enlarging means, however, there is no actual actuation component. Additionally, the description of the motion due to shrinkage of the piezoelectric sensor does not coincide with the figure. The piezoelectric sensor in the figure is attached to a piezoelectric actuator which shrinks when actuated but the sensor itself doesn't shrink. In claim 6, the language "and thereby removing the contact the first electrode to the second electrode" is indefinite and in itself, doesn't clearly indicate what happens when the switch is turned off.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ho (US 6,481,667). Ho shows (fig. 1b) a method of enlarging a travel of a piezoelectric sensor comprising the steps of: shrinking the piezoelectric sensor (110a) by applying a potential difference; providing an enlargement means (112b) having a proximal end and an end opposed to the proximal end, the opposed end of the enlarging means being elastically attached to the piezoelectric sensor (110a); and enlarging the travel of the piezoelectric sensor (110a) by causing the shrinkage of the piezoelectric sensor (110a) to rotate the enlarging means (112a) about the opposed end of the enlarging means (15).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Emori (JP 8-152575). Emori shows (fig. 2b) a method of enlarging a travel of a piezoelectric sensor comprising the steps of: shrinking the piezoelectric sensor (5) by applying a potential difference; providing an enlargement means (15) having a proximal end and an end opposed to the proximal end, the opposed end of the enlarging means being elastically attached (at the area around 14) to the piezoelectric sensor (5); and enlarging the travel of the piezoelectric sensor (5) by causing the shrinkage of the piezoelectric sensor (5) to rotate the enlarging means (15) about the opposed end of the enlarging means (15).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, and 7-11 are allowed.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Note that while claim 1 was previously noted as containing allowable subject matter, the amended claim 1 actually contains less structure than the original claim 1.

Direct inquiry to Examiner Dougherty at (571) 272-2022.

tmd
tmd

April 17, 2006


TOM DOUGHERTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER